

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Rowe Applauds Gov. Rell for \$2 Million in Funding for Long Island Sound Improvements



Rep. T. R. Rowe, R-123rd, Trumbull, thanked Governor M. Jodi Rell for approving nearly \$2 million to fund water quality improvements for Long Island Sound scheduled to receive approval from the state Bond Commission December 9.

The Bond Commission's agenda for clean water projects includes \$1,922,548 for the design of Long Island Sound denitrification projects, constituting a 50 percent state match to federal funds from the Long Island Sound Restoration Act.

"Long Island Sound is one of the environmental assets that benefits all residents of southern Connecticut," said Rep. Rowe. "I am pleased to see these state and federal dollars improving this important natural resource," said Rep. Rowe.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has received applications from municipalities designated as 'distressed communities' for use of the funding.

According to the DEP, each summer the bottom waters in the western half of Long Island Sound experience [hypoxia](#), or very low levels of dissolved oxygen. Extensive monitoring and modeling of Long Island Sound have identified the excessive discharge of nitrogen from human activities as the primary pollutant causing hypoxia. Nitrogen fuels the growth of algae in the sound, which eventually decays, consuming oxygen in the process. There is enough nitrogen added by human activity to cause a hypoxia problem each summer. Denitrification initiatives are crucial in maintaining and improving the water quality of the Sound.

The Bond Commission expects is expected to approve a total of \$15.8 million in clean water bond fund projects, ranging from Long Island Sound denitrification to projects in other parts of the state.